

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01

AID-05 FEA-01 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 /123 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS

REF: USUN 5637

1. IN VIEW PARA 4 REFTTEL, USDEL SHOULD HAVE CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS ON FOUR RESOLUTIONS CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING UNDER AGENDA ITEM 100 (SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS).
2. RE RESOLUTION ON 1977-79 SCALE RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS: USDEL SHOULD SUPPORT STAUNCHLY AND VOTE IN FAVOR (STATE 261236).
3. RE A/C.5/31/L.7/REV.1: THIS RESOLUTION, SPONSORED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEPAL, WOULD LOWER THE FLOOR ASSESSMENT FROM .02 TO .01 PER CENT, PRESUMABLY IN SCALES SUBSEQUENT TO THE ONE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS. WE ARE OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO REDUCING THE FLOOR ASSESSMENT. OUR TRADITIONAL POSITION IS THAT A MEMBER STATE SHOULD AT LEAST PAY THE ORGANIZATION AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COST TO THE ORGANIZATION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP (TRAVEL AND PER DIEM AT GA,

DOCUMENTATION AND OTHER SERVICES): ACCORDINGLY, IF NO OTHER CONSIDERATIONS ARE INVOLVED, USDEL'S VOTE SHOULD BE NEGATIVE. HOWEVER, 81 COUNTRIES ARE ASSESSED AT THE .02 PERCENT FLOOR LEVEL IN THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1977-79. OBVIOUSLY THE VOTES OF THESE COUNTRIES CAN BE DECISIVE IN THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THE RECOMMENDED SCALE. AS A LESSER EVIL, THEREFORE, USDEL IS AUTHORIZED TO ABSTAIN OR, AS LAST RESORT, VOTE FOR RESOLUTION L.7/REV. 1 IF SUCH VOTE IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO ASSURE A FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF THE SCALE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. RE A/C.5/31/L.8: THIS RESOLUTION, SPONSORED BY CUBA, IS A SELF-SERVING EFFORT TO FREEZE AT EXISTING LEVELS THE ASSESSMENT RATES OF "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHOSE PRINCIPAL EXPORT COMMODITIES HAVE UNDERGONE A SHARP PRICE DECLINE SINCE 1974." BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS HAS BEEN NECESSARILY AND TRADITIONALLY RESTRICTED TO THE USE OF PRE-1975 ECONOMIC DATA IN DERIVING ITS RECOMMENDED SCALE THE CUBAN RESOLUTION IS AN EX POST FACTO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE KNOWN AND HERETOFORE ACCEPTED PROCEDURES OF DETERMINING AN ASSESSMENT SCALE. USDEL SHOULD, THEREFORE, VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION L.8.

5. RE A/C.5/31/L.10: THIS RESOLUTION SPONSORED PRINCIPALLY BY THE OIL-EXPORTING STATES HAS AS ITS MAIN OBJECTIONABLE FEATURE THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS THROUGH 1978. THIS WOULD SERVE TO FREEZE THE ASSESSMENT RATES OF THE OIL-EXPORTERS AT THE LEVELS PRODUCED BY 1969-71 ECONOMIC DATA. FOR REASONS STATED IN STATE 261236, USDEL SHOULD VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION L.10.
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